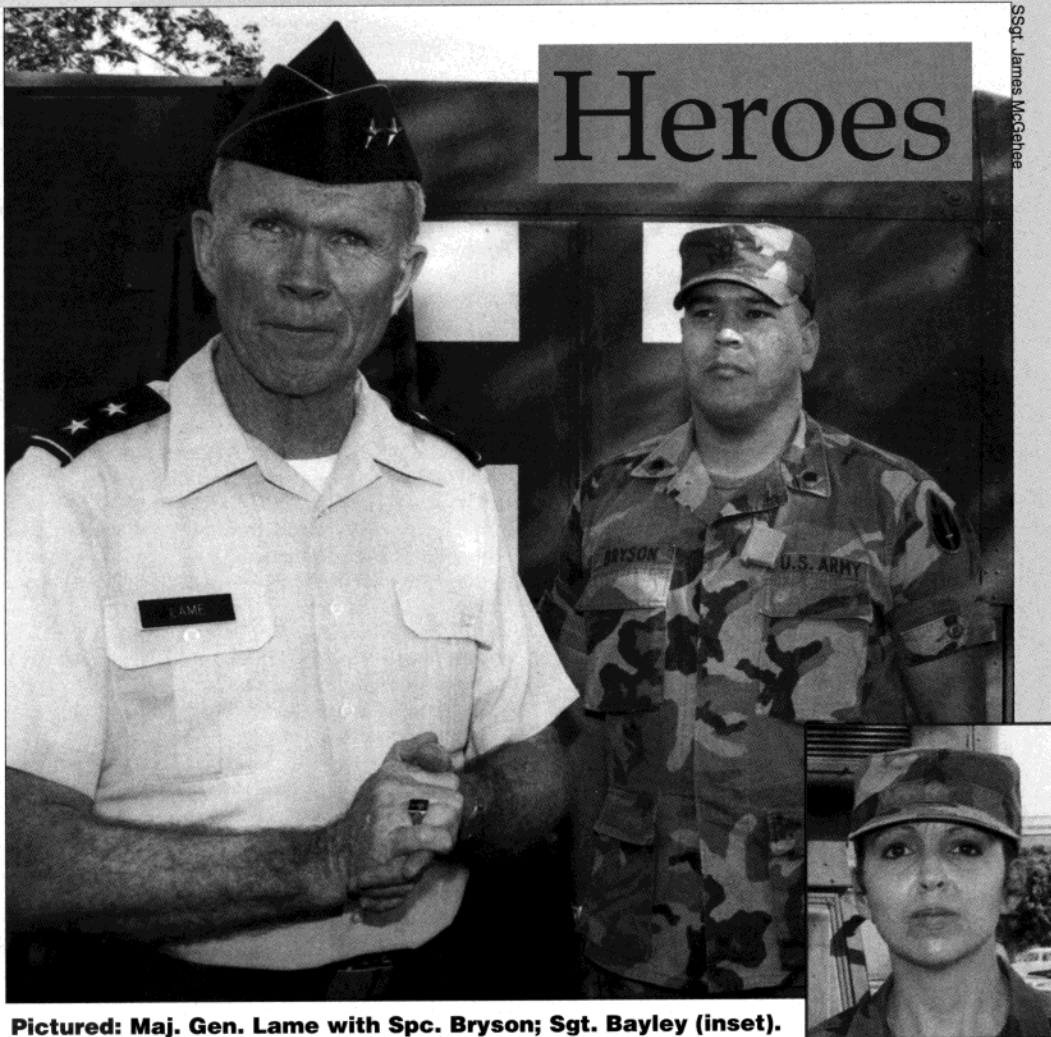


## As fate would

have it, the wrong thing happened at the right place. Four medical specialists in the 63rd Regional Support Command were manning a booth last year during Torrance (Calif.) Armed Forces Day activities when two civilian vehicles collided just yards away. "What better place for an accident than in front of a U.S. Army General Hospital," said Lt. Col. Carl Conley Jr., commander of the 349th's HUS (Hospital Unit Surgical) and an eyewitness. Army Reserve Sgts. Karen Bayley and Ernest Hooper, Spc. John Bryson and PFC William Breitweg rushed to the accident scene to provide medical assistance. Later that afternoon, 63rd RSC commander Maj. Gen. Robert Lame awarded the soldiers Army Achievement Medals.



Pictured: Maj. Gen. Lame with Spc. Bryson; Sgt. Bayley (inset).

SSgt. James McGehee

## One specially-invited guest

watching Lt. Col. John M. Buttine assume command of the 310th Military Police Battalion last June owed the Army Reservist her life. Buttine, while driving to drill in June 1994 in Brookville, N.Y., saw a car to his front swerve and hit a tree. Buttine stopped and did all he could to help the injured driver, Sonny Fisher. He used Fisher's car phone to call emergency services. Later that day Buttine called the hospital to leave his telephone number in case Fisher needed anything. Fisher's injuries were life-threatening. She spent 16 days in intensive care and suffered serious memory lapse. A year later, Sonny's husband felt it may help his wife's recovery if she talked to Buttine. Having kept Buttine's number in his wallet, Dave Fisher called the Good Samaritan and a meeting was arranged. They've kept in touch since. "It's a special day for me, too," said Sonny of Buttine's change-of-command. "John's my hero, and for me this day is a celebration of life."



SFC Donald Outley

# Heads up

USAR units take soldiers in a count

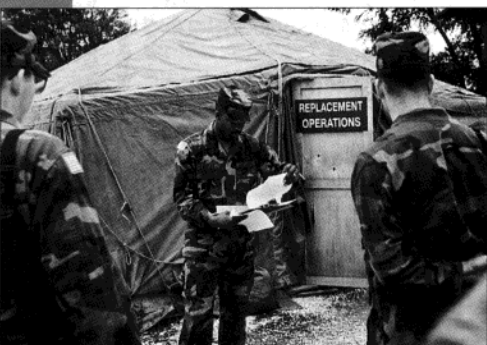
Individual replacement soldiers deploying to Bosnia for Operation Joint Endeavor last fall often took a commercial plane to Frankfurt, Germany, a military aircraft or lengthy bus ride to Hungary, and a bus ride of up to 12 hours into Bosnia or Croatia. Between each leg of the trip were briefings, in-processing stops – plenty of opportunities for soldiers to get lost in “the system.”

But not with the 324th Personnel Replacement Battalion from Starkville, Miss., and the 813th Replacement Company of Gordo, Ala., in charge.

Using a computerized manifest system developed from Desert Storm lessons learned, the units tracked troop movement during second rotation duties.

Unit members also served as bus commanders during troop movements. Each bus carried a sealed box of ammunition to be opened only in case of emergency. Every soldier wore a Kevlar helmet and flak jacket when entering Bosnia or Croatia.

“Even though this was a peacekeeping mission,” said 1st Sgt. Buren Windle, “there were certain force protection measures we stressed at all times.”



Spc. Terry Butts, 324th Replacement Bn., briefs soldiers in Tuzla.

Paul Adams

## Soldiering

Military olympics a change of pace

Paperwork sometimes rules a drill weekend. But not last September in the New York-based 77th Regional Support Command. Then it was time for hardcore soldiering at the annual NCO Competition, expanded this year to include a junior officer division.

The 301st Area Support Group was the overall winner. Individual winners: Spc. Anthony Reitano, 301st ASG, and 2nd Lt. James Chiariello, 411th Engineer Brigade.

Conducted at Fort Dix, N.J., the competition began Friday evening with a written test on basic soldier skills. Early Saturday the APFT was taken. SSgt. Keith Forbes of the 301st and Capt. Bill Martin, RSC command group, were high scorers.

Next came weapons firing with the M-16 rifle and 9mm pistol. Top guns were Sgt. Nicholas Ricigilliano, 800th Military Police Brigade, and Capt. Craig Watts, 411th Engineers.

Saturday continued with the Leader's Reaction and Land Navigation courses. The competition concluded Sunday with a six-mile road march in full battle gear.

“This kind of training reinforces what soldiering is all about,” said CSM Felix Nater.



SSgts. Vincent Mannion (left) and Kevin James rest after completing the six-mile road march at Fort Dix, N.J.

SSgt. Hazel Hughes



Bob Cordes

### FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR,

Liberty Torch Runners from the 77th Regional Support Command took first place in the Reserve category at last year's Army 10-Miler in Washington, D.C. Top finisher for the New York-based RSC was SSgt. Steve Mele (pictured above holding the team trophy) with a time of 53:42.

## CALT makes a difference

Soldiers from the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (Foreign Internal Defense/Unconventional Warfare) served extended active duty tours in Cambodia last year helping implement U.S. humanitarian aid programs.

SFC Raymond Ebbets spent over four months in-country as part of the Civil Affairs Liaison Team (CALT). One of his main duties: coordinate the importation of excess U.S. Department of Defense equipment – medical supplies, furniture, books.

“Libraries all over Cambodia had been destroyed or their books burned” by the Khmer Rouge, said Ebbets. “During my tour alone we received over 26 tons of reading material.”



SFC Raymond Ebbets

SSgt. Robert Mahoney, a policeman in California (home of the 426th), trained the Cambodian security staff at the U.S. embassy

“It's a real success story,” said SSgt. James Smith, a CALT member and veteran of Uphold Democracy in Haiti. “The U.S. is doing a great job to help Cambodians get back on their feet.”



1st Lt. Lucas Pannell with the Vietnamese attaché.